Opening of IWAI Office at Bhubaneswar

3045. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Inland Water Authority of India (IWAI) has got no office in the Eastern region;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to open an office at Bhubaneswar; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir, In the Eastern region Inland Waterways Authority of India has offices at Patna, Bhagalpur, Farakka and Kolkata on National Waterway No. 1.

(b) and (c) As no National Waterway exists near Bhubaneswar, as of now, opening of office of Inland Waterways Authority of India at Bhubaneswar is not under consideration.

Increase in Container Traffic at NMPT

3046. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a significant increase in container traffic at the New Mangalore Port Trust;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to encourage container traffic at other ports also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Container Traffic handled at New Mangalore Port during 2001-2002 is 3929 TEUs as against 1891 TEUs handled during 2000-2001.

(c) Efforts to attract cargo including container traffic to ports are made on a continuous basis. The steps being taken to encourage container traffic at other major ports include:—

(i) Modernisation and augmentation of the handling facilities.

(ii) Privatisation of container terminals wherever feasibility exists.

(iii) Marketing by respective ports to capture the traffic and also to encourage increasing containerization of containerisable cargo.

Proposal to bring all ports under one regulator

3047. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring all ports under one regulator;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) At present the tariff of Major Ports is regulated by Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP) while tariff of other ports is not so regulated which is discriminatory and adversely affects the competitive environment. It may, therefore, be desirable that tariff of all ports is regulated under same regulations. Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism has also recommended that there should be the same regulation for all ports, if not possible, the major ports should have liberty to fix port tariff at their own. However, ports other than major ports are under the control of respective State Governments whose agreement to such regulations may be desirable, which is not currently available.